

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Cleveland Arcade

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

401 Euclid Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

VICINITY OF
CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

20th

STATE

Ohio

COUNTY

Cuyahoga

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Cleveland Arcade Company

STREET & NUMBER

401 Euclid Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Ohio

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cuyahoga County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

1 Lakeside NE

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

STATE

Ohio

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

June 1967

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The first footing stone was set in May, 1888 and the structure was finished in January of 1890; officially opened in May of that year. Now surrounded by office buildings it is sited one block east of Public Square. The Arcade is 300 feet long connecting Superior and Euclid Avenues.

On the exterior, the Arcade is flanked on both ends by nine storied office buildings both with a one story central tower. Load bearing walls help to hold the sandy soil in place while stone footings (from 3 feet square to 8 feet where the weight increases) buttress the base. Iron frame columns rise from the footings. There are, in addition, 292 stone and brick piers. The Euclid Avenue side is 12 feet higher than the Superior Avenue side giving the interior two ground levels while five tiers of galleries rise above, the ground crowned by the great glass roof supported by steel trusses arching across 60 feet. The heavy Romanesque-Revival exterior of rusticated sandstone with brick above contrast dramatically with the thin, elegant structural members within. This effect is further enhanced by the wrought iron railings which exaggerate the "web-like" quality on the interior. The simple system of exterior windows, simple modillioned cornices, projecting bays, columns with foliated capitals are all in the best Richardsonian-Romanesque tradition. The interior, however, is the most impressive--the roof is supported by a system of trusses pin-connected to steel beams supported by knee braces hinged in three places. The plans were too complicated for building contractors so the commission went to the Detroit Bridge Company. They accepted.

There have been interior changes--the lighting system has been updated, the stairways slightly altered and the 1939 alteration removed the arch on the Euclid Street side replacing it with a square entry. Some of the original tile floors are gone but many remain. The rich visual effect of gilded brass, Roman Mosaic floors, marble trim is still there as well as the great glass roof--one of the few remaining American gallerias.

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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	XX___ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	XX___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
XX___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1888-1890	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	John Eisenman & George Horatio Smith (1851-1924) (unknown - 1924)
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The great glass-roofed Arcade was the forerunner of many of today's shopping centers--it combined under one roof a large number of stores and as a covered "street" it connected two of the main thoroughfares in Cleveland's downtown commercial area. This brightly lit passageway was a 19th century engineering marvel. It had precedents abroad in France, Belgium and the greatest of all in Europe: Mengioni's Galleria Vittorio Emanuele in Milan (1860's). One of the best known in America, although much smaller in scale and much earlier in date (1828) is Warren's Providence Arcade in Rhode Island.

The Cleveland Arcade was financed by a group of prominent business and civic leaders: J. M. Curtiss, a real estate broker, Myron T. Herrick, a banker, Charles Brush, the inventor of the arc light, the Severance family and John D. Rockefeller. They commissioned John Eisenman, an architectural engineer and professor of Civil Engineering at the Case School of Applied Sciences (now Case Institute of Technology) and the acting Superintendent of Cleveland Parks. Eisenman consulted George H. Smith, an architectural designer and together they produced the remarkable glass covered esplanade, five tiers in height and crowned by a vast arched steel and glass skylight.

The site chosen was very problematic. To assure commercial success the passageway had to connect two important streets drawing people out of bad weather to shop. Logically Superior and Euclid could be connected but Euclid Street was on a higher level than Superior and the foundations had to be set in the sandy soil of what had been a lake in Prehistoric times. The designers solved the problem by constructing two street levels connected by a monumental stair. The problem of quick sand foundation was accounted for in a combination of load bearing walls and structural steel supports. This solution was so successful that the Arcade has settled less than one-half inch in 75 years.

The National Convention of Republican Clubs held a banquet in the Arcade in June 1895. The speakers were Senator Marcus Hanna and William McKinley, then governor of Ohio, later to be a martyred President of the United States. The National Trust for Historic Preservation held a gala banquet in 1971. The Arcade was recorded by HABS in 1967.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Applause for the Arcade," Cleveland Plain Dealer. January 24, 1961
Campen, Richard R., Architecture in the Western Reserve, 1800-1900, The Press of
Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, 1971.
"The Grand Arcade," panel guide, Architecture in the Ohio Heritage, Album VIII,
No. 7, The Standard Oil Company, 1965.
Hand, Elwood S. The Cleveland Arcade. Exhibit Publishing Company, New York, 1891.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 442140 4594230
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located in middle of city block bounded by Public Square, Sixth Street, Euclid and Superior Avenues. The entire parcel Euclid Avenue to Superior Avenue include lots Numbers 101-26-10-9-8-16/17. Frontage on Superior Avenue 180 feet with a depth of 176.77 feet. Frontage on Euclid Avenue 132 feet with a depth of 378 feet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carolyn Pitts

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service - Historic Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

DATE

3/10/75

TELEPHONE

STATE

D.C.

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS.

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Ohio Historic Survey, Phase 1: "Ohio Historic Landmarks"
February, 1967 State
The Ohio Historical Society
1982 Velma Avenue
Columbus, Ohio

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Today the Arcade has been slightly altered to accommodate shop owners who wanted more "modern facilities." The hydraulic elevators were electrified in 1909, the Euclid Street facade arch was squared-off and faced with granite but the building retains its original grandeur and still stands as an architectural and engineering triumph.

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(phamphlet)

Schofield, Mary-Peal. "The Cleveland Arcade," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. XXV, No. 4 (December 1966), pp. 281-292.

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